



**World Health  
Organization**

REGIONAL OFFICE FOR **Africa**

**AFR/RC60/R1**  
9 September 2010

**REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR AFRICA**

**ORIGINAL: ENGLISH**

Sixtieth session

Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, 30 August –3 September 2010

## **RESOLUTION**

### **A STRATEGY FOR ADDRESSING KEY DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH IN THE AFRICAN REGION (Document AFR/RC60/3)**

The Regional Committee,

Having examined the document entitled “A strategy for addressing the key determinants of health in the African Region”;

Recalling the report and recommendations of the WHO Commission on Social Determinants of Health (CSDH);

Noting global and regional calls and commitments to reduce the health equity gap by addressing the risk factors and their determinants namely, the Bangkok Charter for Health Promotion in a Globalized World (2005); and the Nairobi Call to Action for closing the implementation gap (2009); the Ouagadougou Declaration and the Libreville Declaration;

Noting the global consensus through United Nations to achieve the Millennium Development Goals by 2015 and the concern about inadequate progress in many countries of the African Region to achieve these goals to date;

Welcoming, in this regard, Resolution WHA61.18 which requires annual monitoring by the Health Assembly of the achievement of health-related Millennium Development Goals;

Taking note of Resolution WHA62.14 on “Reducing health inequities through action on the social determinants of health” adopted by the 62nd Session of the World Health Assembly 2009;

Acknowledging that health inequities and inequalities exist within and between countries of the African Region and that the structural drivers include education, trade, globalization, employment and working conditions, food security, water and sanitation, health care services, housing, income and its distribution, unplanned urbanization and social exclusion;



Noting that most of these key determinants of health are rooted in political, economic, social and environmental contexts and are therefore linked to good governance and social justice for all particularly the poor, women, children and the elderly;

Concerned that growing poverty, the global financial crisis, climate change, pandemic influenza, globalization and urbanization could further widen the health equity gap by differentially impacting on population groups and result in increased premature deaths, disability and illness from preventable causes;

Acknowledging the efforts by individual Member States of the African Region to reduce the health equity gap and the progress made by some of the Member States;

Recognizing the growing evidence suggesting that action on the equity gap and its determinants is possible;

Noting the need for Member States to integrate health equity in all policies and programmes, advocate for reduction of the equity gap through action on determinants of health, and document the evidence;

1. ENDORSES the Regional Strategy for addressing the key determinants of health in the African Region as contained in Document AFR/RC60/3 and expresses its appreciation for the work done by the WHO Secretariat and the Commission on Social Determinants of Health;

2. URGES Member States:

- (a) to deliberate on the recommendations of the CSDH Report and identify recommendations that are relevant to the contexts of countries;
- (b) to establish sustainable national leadership, policies and structures to coordinate intersectoral action to address the determinants of health across population groups and priority public health conditions;
- (c) to monitor the health equity trends and document and disseminate the findings to strengthen policy and programme implementation across priority public health conditions;
- (d) to promote both quantitative and qualitative research in order to understand factors influencing the health equity trends including the role of cultural beliefs and values;
- (e) to establish or strengthen national institutional mechanisms for monitoring the implementation of the regional strategy and document the findings;

3. REQUESTS the Regional Director:

- (a) to strengthen the leadership role of WHO and the ministries of health to advocate and coordinate intrasectoral and intersectoral actions by providing guidelines, policies and strategies to address social determinants of health across sectors and priority public health conditions;
- (b) to support countries to establish routine monitoring systems that include the collection of disaggregated data and health equity analysis;

- (c) to support national and regional research on social, cultural and behavioural risk factors and the determinants likely to influence health outcomes;
- (d) to strengthen the capacity of Member States to empower individuals, families and communities through increased literacy in determinants of health within the context of revitalizing primary health care;
- (e) to report to the Sixty-second session of the Regional Committee (2012) on the progress made in the implementation of this resolution.